

Resolution to support extinguishing all non-essential lighting in all town government buildings, public schools and public landmarks for the hour between 8:30 PM and 9:30 PM on March 28, 2009 to conserve energy as part of the town-wide climate change event: Earth Hour and establishing March 28, 2009 as Earth Hour Day in the Town of Acton

WHEREAS, our community is deeply concerned about the impacts of climate change and the future health and well-being of our planet and believes energy efficiency, natural resource conservation, and a demand by the voting public for action by elected officials are important element to combating climate change; and,

WHEREAS, Earth Hour is both an international and local symbolic event organized by World Wildlife Fund to raise awareness about climate change issues, to encourage businesses, individuals and government to take actions to reduce their carbon emissions and their impact on the environment in their daily lives and operations; and

WHEREAS, Earth Hour asks all citizens, businesses, government agencies, and commercial and non-commercial establishments to turn off all non-essential lighting for one hour beginning at 8:30 pm on March 28, 2009 and to encourage citizens and businesses to commit to actions they can take in the coming year to reduce their carbon footprints and conserve energy; and,

WHEREAS, if every household installs one CFL, annual energy savings will reach approximately 18 Gigawatt hours per year, or 1.3% of total residential energy demand; and,

WHEREAS, Earth Hour will be used as a tool to inform local residents and businesses about existing information and tools already available within the community to assist them in increasing energy efficiency and decreasing emissions and use of natural resources; and,

WHEREAS, Extinguishing non-essential lights in all town government buildings, public schools and public landmarks for one hour and urging all businesses and citizens to do the same will send a clear message that the people of Acton in the State of Massachusetts in the United States of America are concerned about climate change, stand with the rest of the world in seeking solutions and are demanding that elected leaders act immediately to take measures that will help fight global climate change effort to stop climate change, including the passage of legislation and good-faith participation in global climate treaty negotiations in Copenhagen in December 2009; and,

WHEREAS, Turning non-essential lights off in all town government buildings, public schools and public landmarks will serve as an important rallying point for the town-wide energy conservation event Earth Hour; and, therefore be it,

RESOLVED, That the Town of Acton endorses efforts by World Wildlife Fund through Earth Hour to raise awareness around global climate change and energy efficiency; and, be it,

FURTHER RESOLVED, That Acton encourages all town employees to turn off all non-essential lighting in town government buildings, public schools and public landmarks for the hour between 8:30 and 9:30 PM on March 28, 2009 to conserve energy and raise awareness about global climate change as part of the Town-wide energy conservation event: Earth Hour Acton; and, be it;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Acton Board of Selectmen declares March 28, 2009 to be "WWF's Earth Hour" day in the Town of Acton.

Lauren S. Rosenzweig
Chairperson